

ORDER OF SERVICE

Sunday 19 September 2021

Chit Chat
Welcome and Notices
Christine Bradbeer

Prayer of Invocation

Young @ Heart
Gander
Christine Bradbeer

Bible Reading: Philippians 4:1-9
Amanda Fairs

Sermon: Philippians #4 [of 4]
Gentle people, joyful in Christ.

Meditation
Allemande, Suite in D minor, by Bach
Amanda Fairs (viola)

Prayer of Intercession
and
The Lord's Prayer

Benediction



NOTICES

19 September 2021

Website: www.blackburnpc.org.au

Wednesday 22 September 1.30 pm Covenanted Prayer Time.
Sunday 26 September 11 am Divine Service. Online Only.
Live stream on Facebook, later with closed caption option on YouTube.

For your prayers this week

Congregational member:

Shirley CHAN



and

Yousif and Vivian Kunda are with Gospel Recordings and currently in the Northern Territory up-skilling in language recording with a view to East Africa next year.



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GARDENIA ST.
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
BLACKBURN
19 September 2021

... harmony ...
... true companionship ...
... men—they labored side by side ...
... with me in spreading the Good News, ...
... together with Clement also and the rest ...
... of my fellow workers, whose names are ...
... in the Book of Life.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always—again I will say, rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be known to all people. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not be anxious about anything—but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God. ⁷And the shalom of God surpasses all understanding and your mind

WELCOME



For your Prayers

Sermon Outline

Paul's pastoral concern gentle and joyful in Christ

Prelude: The apostle wants the best for the congregation in Philippi. He wants them united and harmonious. Two of the women, fellow workers with him and Clement, have had a disagreement and he urges their reconciliation.

1. Rejoice x2 (v.4)

The joy that should characterise a people whose God is the Lord has featured throughout the letter. The discovery that God is for us, not against us is the deepest source of hope and blessing. Nothing can alter the truth that God loves us. The first of two renowned verses in this selection, this verse also features as a well known children's chorus, usually sung as a 'round'. But its exhortation is primarily for adults. We are united with Christ by faith, symbolised in baptism.

2. Gentle now, Master near (v.5)

Here is the surprise... gentleness? Are we known for our gentleness? If not, what might characterise us, individually and corporately?

In Exodus 34 (v.6,7) YHWH, Israel's God, describes himself. Isaiah 40 picks up the tender shepherd image. This gentleness is exemplified in the Lord Jesus.

This is not weakness, but strength under the Spirit's control. It is listed as the Spirit's fruit (Galatians 5:23). This matters to Paul. To him gentleness is god-like-ness. He care of the church is gentle 'like a nursing mother' (1 Thessalonians 2:6,7).

Every church should have 'The Allure of Gentleness' (Dallas Willard). When gentleness is embodied *the Master is near*.

3. Practical in prayer (v.6,7)

The Philippi church was surrounded by a hostile culture. The many concerns of daily living created worry and anxiety. They were to be converted into practical prayer.

We too should take our daily concerns to God in prayer. The pattern he gave us ranges from his glory to the very practical verbs: give us, forgive us, and deliver us.

4. Mind full_ness and action (v.8)

Mindfulness is all in vogue today. In addition to prayer the apostle urges the Philippians to fill their minds and meditate on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious—the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse.

Think for a moment what drives newspaper sales up, raises TV ratings, and acts as internet clickbait. What might this mean for our reading, listening, viewing and our conversations?

5. Do it, God is Guard (v.7b,9)

The apostle says action is needed. Recall what you *learned from me, heard, saw and realised*. Do it! As they model themselves on him (as he modelled himself on Christ) so they will experience God's peace.

This God reliance leads us to the second renowned verse of this selection. The *peace of God which passes all understanding will guard your hearts and minds*. Like a sentry on city wall guard duty, God will lovingly *guard* them.



Here is today's text from *The Message*
What pastoral concerns are expressed?

Philippians 4:1-9

My dear, dear friends! I love you so much. I do want the very best for you. You make me feel such joy, fill me with such pride. Don't waver. Stay on track, steady in God. Pray About Everything

I urge Euodia and Syntyche to iron out their differences and make up. God doesn't want his children holding grudges. And, oh, yes, Syzygus, since you're right there to help them work things out, do your best with them. These women worked for the Message hand in hand with Clement and me, and with the other veterans—worked as hard as any of us. Remember, their names are also in the Book of Life.

Celebrate God all day, every day. I mean, *revel* in him! Make it as clear as you can to all you meet that you're on their side, working with them and not against them. Help them see that the Master is about to arrive. He could show up any minute!

Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life.

Summing it all up, friends, I'd say you'll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious—the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse. Put into practice what you learned from me, what you heard and saw and realized. Do that, and God, who makes everything work together, will work you into his most excellent harmonies.

Tajikistan's human rights record continues to deteriorate amid an ongoing crackdown on freedom of expression and the political opposition, as well as the targeting of independent lawyers, journalists, and family members of opposition activists abroad. Authorities' use of torture to obtain confessions remains a serious concern. The government blocks access to various websites that post information critical of the government and harasses human rights groups. Freedom of religion and belief is severely limited. Lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgender people are subjected to wide-ranging discrimination and homophobia. Domestic violence against women is a serious problem.

Human Rights Watch

In Tajikistan, all religious activities must be approved by the government. Christian gatherings that take place without a permit will be fined. Church leaders are often detained for having Christian materials that aren't government-approved. It is common for churches to be raided by the authorities. Police will disrupt meetings and interrogate church attendees.

Tajikistan also has a law specifically targeting religious work among young people, leaving Christians unsure of what they are legally allowed to say or how to share the gospel with children.

In Tajikistan, Christians who have converted from Islam are most at risk. They are targeted by both the government, and their community and family. Christians living outside Tajikistan's major cities experience more pressure to denounce their faith, than followers of Jesus living in the city.

Open Doors Australia 2021